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POLICE CHIEF FINALISTS

AMID TENSION, CITY NARROWS SEARCH TO SIX CANDIDATES

LOCAL CANDIDATES

Maj. John Hayden
30 years with department

Capt. Mary Edwards-Fears
31 years with department

Lt. Col. Lawrence O'Toole
33 years with department

OUTSIDE CANDIDATES

Chief Patrick Melvin
Port Arthur, Texas

Maj. Stephen Max Geron
Dallas

Chief Keith L. Humphrey
Norman, Okla.

BY CELESTE BOTT
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • In a forum routinely punctuated with protest, six finalists vying to be the city's police chief spoke about how they would address the strained relationship between St. Louis police and the people they serve.

That strain was evident in the crowd gathered in a St. Louis University Law School classroom on Thursday night, where citizens vented their frustrations over Interim Police Chief Lawrence O'Toole being included on the shortlist for the job. He has come under fire for his leadership during the protests over the acquittal of former Officer Jason Stockley,

O'Toole is one of three finalists who come from within the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Maj. John Hayden, who commands the department's North Patrol Division, and Capt. Mary Edwards-Fears, from the Bureau of Professional Standards, are also seeking the job.

All six finalists have at least 10 years of experience at the rank of captain or higher, a requirement from the city. It's the first time in modern history that city leaders will consider an external candidate. The department had been under state control before 2013, and state law forbade the department from hiring a chief outside of its own ranks.

Three candidates hail from police departments out of state: Maj. Stephen Max Geron, of the Dallas Police Department; Norman, Okla., Police Chief Keith Humphrey; and Chief Patrick Melvin of the Port Arthur Police Department in Texas.

The identities of the six finalists were

See FINALISTS • Page A4

TWO OFFICERS SHOT IN STANDOFF

J.B. FORBES • jforbes@post-dispatch.com

A tactical officer looks at the front of the house in Bellefontaine Neighbors where a standoff with a suspect who shot two officers had just ended on Thursday. The two officers were shot in the chest, but were saved by bulletproof vests. The gunman then barricaded himself inside a home. The standoff ended about 3 p.m. with the wounded suspect taken into custody. STORY • A12

FCC repeals net neutrality rules for providers

BY BRIAN FUNG
Washington Post

WASHINGTON • Federal regulators voted Thursday to allow internet providers to speed up service for websites they favor — and block or slow down others — in a decision repealing landmark, Obama-era regulations overseeing broadband companies such as AT&T and Verizon.

What is net neutrality and why does it matter? • A12

The move by the Federal Communications Commission to deregulate the telecom and cable industries was a prominent example of the policy shifts taking place in Washington under President Donald Trump and a major setback for consumer groups, tech companies and Democrats who had lobbied heavily against the decision.

The 3-2 vote, which was along party lines, enabled the FCC's Republican chairman, Ajit Pai, to follow through on his promise to repeal the government's 2015 net neutrality rules, which required internet providers to treat all websites,

See FCC • Page A12

Clayco steps up with $500,000 to keep Loop Trolley on track

BY LISA BROWN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Clayco, a development firm with deep St. Louis ties, is stepping forward to donate a half-million dollars to get the long-delayed Loop Trolley project rolling next spring.

The cash infusion from the Clayco Foundation and Clayco's St. Louis-based real estate subsidiary CRG comes at a critical time for the 2.2-mile electric trolley line, which connects the Delmar Loop in University City to the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park.

"We will immediately commit to the funds necessary to ramp up and get started," said Clayco Chairman and

See TROLLEY • Page A7

Council budget move was effort to control, not cut, spending

BY JEREMY KOHLER
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

CLAYTON • A St. Louis County Council vote this week advancing a plan to slice $31 million from next year's county budget may have looked at first like the council tightening its belt.

But it was more about the council tightening control of how the county spends money. And if the 6-1 vote holds up for final approval Tuesday, it will be a veto-proof move to wrest power from County Executive Steve Stenger and individual department heads, who have enjoyed discretion to overbudget for programs and roll over unspent money year to year.

Take the county's road and bridge

See BUDGET • Page A4

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Rubio comes out against tax bill • A11
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It's official: Ozuna in, Piscotty out • C1
Blues' offense struggles in 3-1 loss • C1

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